UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/173
19 February 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the final communiqué (see annex I) of a meeting held in Lomé on 17 February 1999 in relation to the implementation of the peace process in Guinea-Bissau. This meeting was attended by President Gnassingbe Eyadéma, the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); President João Bernardo Vieira; and General Ansumane Mane.

Also annexed hereto is the text of the ceasefire agreement (see annex II) signed on 3 February 1999 by the parties to the conflict.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

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Annex I

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING HELD IN LOMÉ ON 17 FEBRUARY 1999 CONCERNING THE PEACE PROCESS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The participants expressed their satisfaction at the restoration of calm, which will enable the peace process to be consolidated through, inter alia:

- The investiture of the Government of National Unity set up in accordance with the protocol additional to the Abuja Agreement, signed in Lomé on 15 December 1998;

- The acceleration of the process of withdrawing foreign troops;

- The dispatch and deployment of all the troops promised by countries that contribute troops to the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG);

- The reopening of the airport and port of Bissau to international traffic.

In this connection, President Eyadéma reaffirmed the need to continue to make sustained efforts to pursue and complete the peace process.

He welcomed the parties' determination to arrive at a positive, comprehensive and final settlement of the crisis, and urged them to respect scrupulously the commitments deriving from the various agreements concluded.

With respect to the situation on the ground, and with reference to the Abuja Agreement and the ceasefire agreement of 3 February 1999, the participants in the meeting reiterated the need for the parties to the conflict to begin the disarmament and encampment of troops with a view to the reorganization and unification of the armed forces.

General João Bernardo Vieira and General Ansumane Mane renewed their commitment to pursuing that goal.

On the question of the international community's contribution to the peace process in Guinea-Bissau, the President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of ECOWAS, as well as the parties to the conflict, recalled that this contribution consists chiefly of the following:

- Support for the process of national reconciliation;

- Logistical support for ECOMOG;

- Humanitarian assistance;

- Support for the electoral process; and

- Support for national reconstruction.

They welcomed the assistance already provided by some countries in connection with the deployment of the ECOMOG force, and reiterated their call for the continuation of such assistance.

With respect to humanitarian issues, the participants in the meeting highly appreciated the parties' willingness to facilitate the distribution of aid, and invited humanitarian assistance agencies to step up their efforts to alleviate the population's suffering.

The participants also invited the international community to support the electoral process provided for in the Abuja Agreement by cooperating in the organization of general and presidential elections.

In this connection, the parties to the conflict agreed to make every effort to achieve this major objective as speedily as possible.

At the end of the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual understanding, General João Bernardo Vieira and General Ansumane Mane firmly pledged never again to take up arms.

They pledged, in a spirit of national reconciliation, to work in close collaboration in order to ensure the consolidation of peace.

They sincerely congratulated His Excellency Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadéma, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of ECOWAS, for his unwavering commitment to peace and security in the subregion in general and in Guinea-Bissau in particular. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the President, the Government and the people of Togo for having extended a warm, fraternal and genuinely African welcome to them and to their delegations.

Done at Lomé on 17 February 1999

For the self-proclaimed military junta:

(Signed) Ansumane MANE
Supreme Commander of the self-proclaimed military junta

For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau:

(Signed) João Bernardo VIEIRA
President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

For the Togolese Republic:

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Gnassingbe EYADÉMA
President of the Togolese Republic,
Current Chairman of ECOWAS

Appendix

List of participants

Presidential delegation

1. Mr. João Gomes CARDOSO
   Minister of Transport and Social Capital

2. Lt.-Col. Afonso Tê LETNAM
   Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces

Delegation of the military junta

1. Mr. Francisco BENANTE
   Minister of Defence

2. Lt.-Col. Mohamed Lamine SANHA

Togolese delegation

1. H.E. Mr. Kwassi KLUTSE
   Prime Minister

2. Mr. Barry Moussa BARQUE
   Minister of State for Finance and Privatizations

3. H.E. Mr. Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH
   Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

4. General Assani TIDJANI
   Minister of Defence

5. General Séyi MEMENE
   Minister of the Interior and of Security

6. Mr. Gbégnon AMEGBOH
   Directeur de Cabinet of the President of the Republic

7. H.E. Mr. Kondé TAKASSI-KIKPA
   Ambassador, Special Representative of the current Chairman of ECOWAS in Guinea-Bissau

8. Colonel Gnakoudè BERENA
   ECOMOG Commander in Guinea-Bissau

Observer

H.E. Ms. Ulla ANDRÉN
Ambassador of Sweden in Guinea-Bissau

Annex II

CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

The undersigned:

His Excellency General João Bernardo VIEIRA, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau,

and

His Excellency General Ansumane MANE, Supreme Commander of the self-proclaimed military junta,

Considering that the undersigned deplore the resumption of fighting in Guinea-Bissau since 31 January 1999,

Considering that the hostilities have resulted in significant losses of human life, population displacements and many instances of material damage,

Considering that it is essential to end the hostilities and to resume the process of peace and reconciliation in accordance with the Praia and Abuja Agreements and with the Lomé additional protocol,

Agree as follows:

1. A ceasefire shall be implemented and observed beginning at 3 p.m. on 3 February 1999;

2. The chiefs of staff of the two parties to the conflict agree to meet under the auspices of the Commander of the ECOMOG contingent in order to determine practical arrangements for the ceasefire;

3. The parties to the conflict authorize the immediate entry of the ECOMOG forces into Guinea-Bissau and pledge to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the deployment of this force.

Done in duplicate at Bissau
on 3 February 1999

(Signed) João Bernardo VIEIRA
President of the Republic

(Signed) Ansumane MANE
Supreme Commander of the
self-proclaimed military junta

In the presence of:

(Signed) H.E. Mr. Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
of Togo, representing the current Chairman of ECOWAS,
H.E. Mr. Gnassingbe EYADÉMA, President of the
Republic of Togo